

— SEPTEMBER 17, 2004 —

**DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR THE  
MONUMENT COMMEMORATING  
THE CENTENNIAL OF THE FIRST POWERED FLIGHT  
& THE BODIE ISLAND NORTH BASE STONE PLAQUE**



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# **DEDICATION CEREMONY**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2004**

**2:00—4:00 PM**

**WRIGHT BROTHERS MEMORIAL NATIONAL PARK  
KILL DEVIL HILLS, NORTH CAROLINA**

**BODIE ISLAND BASELINE  
BODIE ISLAND, NORTH CAROLINA**

The dedication ceremony, set for Friday, September 17, will begin at 2:00 p.m., followed by a reception. We will have Mr. Charlie Challstrom of the National Geodetic Survey and Mr. Bobby Stalls from the NCDOT as our guest speakers. Many others will be participating in the ceremony, including several prestigious NCSS leadership, local and state representatives. We hope that all of you will plan to attend.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, volunteers from the North Carolina Society of Surveyors will conduct tours of the Bodie Island Baseline from the trailhead at the tourist center on Bodie Island just off NC12.

## **WELCOME**

Ms. Toni Dufficy, Chief of Interpretation, National Parks Service

## **SPEAKERS**

Mr. Charlie Challstrom, Director, National Geodetic Survey

Mr. Darrell Collins, Historian, Wright Brothers' Memorial National Park

Mr. Charlie Brown, North Carolina Department of Transportation

## **DEDICATION**

Mr. Benjamin C. Brown, PLS, President, North Carolina Society of Surveyors

Mr. Gary Thompson, PLS, and Ms. Susan Roemer, Artist Recognition

Mr. Charlie Brown, Bodie Island Plaque Presentation

## **CLOSING**

Mr. Gary Thompson, PLS, Director, NC Geodetic Survey

## **RECEPTION**

## **US COAST SURVEYS AND BODIE ISLAND BASELINE**

**THE YEAR WAS 1848.** The place was Bodie Island, on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, where Captain Blackbeard and other pirates ruled the seas. Following the guidelines established through President Thomas Jefferson in 1807, US Coast Surveys, under the guidance of Superintendent A. D. Bache established the fourth of several baselines on the eastern coast of the United States. This and the other baselines would serve as triangulation stations for surveying and mapping the east coast. Two base monuments, at the north and south ends, along with 6 “mile markers”, were set using the most precise, most advanced survey procedures of the day. Following several months of work in the area, the baseline was abandoned, visited only occasionally by geodetic survey teams throughout the years.

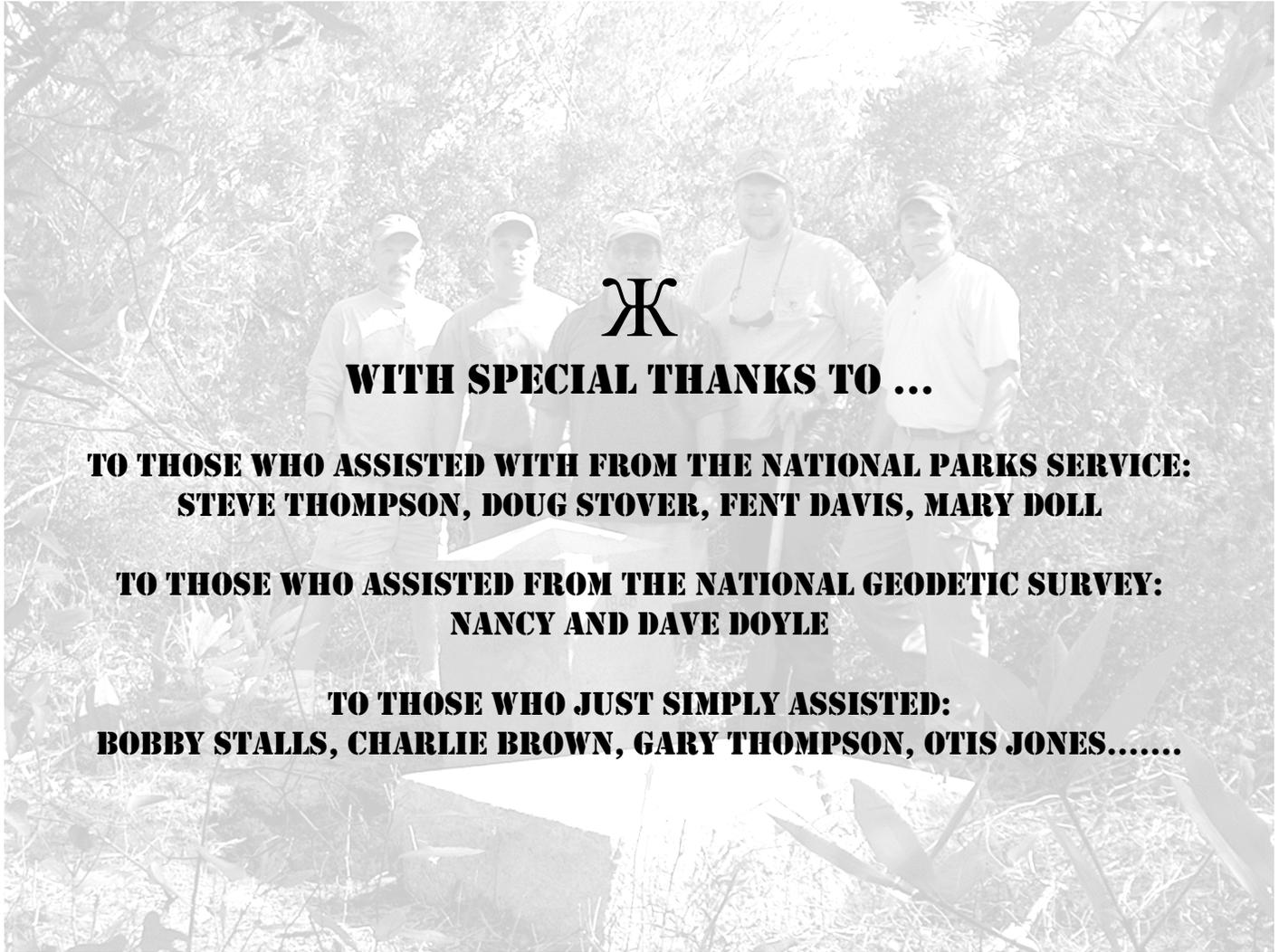
**THE YEAR WAS 2000.** Located entirely on the area covered by Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the Bodie Island baseline was obscured by sand, wetlands, and overgrowth. The north base had not been visited in 30 years or more. The south base was covered in sand. The location of the “mile markers” was unknown. But local surveyors persevered, and cleared a trail to the north base. Two years later, the “mile markers” were found (not at mile intervals, as anticipated). Unlike the other known baselines still in existence, the Bodie Island baseline was completely intact.

**ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2004 FROM 2:00-4:00 PM** the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), in partnership with the North Carolina Geodetic Survey (NCGS), North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), North Carolina Society of Surveyors (NCSS) and the National Park Service (NPS) will dedicate a monument commemorating the centennial of the first powered flight by Wilbur and Orville Wright at the Wright Brothers Memorial National Park in Kitty Hawk, NC. We will also dedicate a plaque to be placed in the vicinity of the north base stone of the Bodie Island Baseline, as the initial step in creating a trail to that stone, serving as a memorial to the hard work and dedication of the surveyors of US Coast Surveys and to surveyors everywhere, and to their role in the development of the great nation we live in today.



In addition to celebrating the centennial of flight, this occasion will highlight the increasingly important role of the Global Positioning System (GPS) to safe air navigation, and the vital need for high accuracy positioning to support the National Air Space System. This unique occasion will provide an opportunity for NGS, NCGS and NCSS to showcase the long history of cooperation between Federal, State and private sector geodetic surveyors in North Carolina to provide the technical standards, technology transfer and observational support that make the United States airport surveys program the world standard.

This event will also include tours of the nearby Bodie Island North Base monument, originally set in 1848 by the Survey of the Coast (now NGS). This baseline is the oldest surviving complete baseline in the country. Both end points, as well as the individual mile markers have been recovered and positioned by the NCDOT, NCGS and NGS.



**WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO ...**

**TO THOSE WHO ASSISTED WITH FROM THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE:  
STEVE THOMPSON, DOUG STOVER, FENT DAVIS, MARY DOLL**

**TO THOSE WHO ASSISTED FROM THE NATIONAL GEODETIC SURVEY:  
NANCY AND DAVE DOYLE**

**TO THOSE WHO JUST SIMPLY ASSISTED:  
BOBBY STALLS, CHARLIE BROWN, GARY THOMPSON, OTIS JONES.....**

**UPCOMING NCSS, INC. MEETINGS...**

**FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 6, 2004**

**CAROLINA BEACH MARRIOTT**

**CAROLINA BEACH, NC**

**2005 ANNUAL CONVENTION & EXHIBITS**

**FEBRUARY 3-5, 2004**

**NORTH RALEIGH HILTON**

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